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8. (Amended) A method of securing access to an apparatus, the method comprising:
taking a photograph of an object using a microscope to produce an enlarged photograph of the object;
scanning the enlarged photograph;
initializing a program to recognize a scan of the enlarged photograph and require a user to scan the enlarged photograph to access the apparatus.

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10. (Amended) The method described in claim 8, wherein the object comprises a gemstone.

Please add the following new claims:

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--11. A security system that controls access to a secured element, the security system comprising:
a medium having an image of an object, the medium having an authorized user, the authorized user having a face, the image being free of the face of the authorized user;
a scanner that scans the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and
a processor connected to the scanner that grants access to the secured element when the digital representation satisfies an access criteria, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation fails to satisfy the access criteria.

12. The security system of claim 11 wherein the processor grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches a stored value, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation does not match the stored value.

13. The security system of claim 11 wherein the medium is a photograph.

14. The security system of claim 11 wherein the image is an enlargement of the object.

15. The security system of claim 14 wherein the object is a gemstone.

16. A method of controlling access to a secured element, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an image of an object on a medium, the medium having an authorized user, the authorized user having a face, the image being free of an image of the face of the authorized user;

scanning the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and

granting access to the secured element when the digital representation satisfies an access criteria, and denying access to the secured element when the digital representation fails to satisfy the access criteria.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the granting step grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches a stored value, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation does not match the stored value.

as 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the medium is a photograph.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the image is an enlargement of the object.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the object is a gemstone.

21. A security system that controls access to a secured element, the security system comprising:

a medium having an image of an object, the object having a size, the image having a size that is greater than the size of the object;

a scanner that scans the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and

a processor connected to the scanner that grants access to the secured element when the digital representation satisfies an access criteria, and denies access to the secured apparatus when the digital representation fails to satisfy the access criteria.

22. The security system of claim 21 wherein the processor grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches a stored value, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation does not match the stored value.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the medium is a photograph.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the object is a gemstone.--

APPENDIX

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An encrypting security device comprising:
a security photograph incorporating a multiplicity of picture elements, the security photograph having an image of an object, the object having a size, the image having a size that is greater than the size of the object;

a program initialized to recognize the security photograph and allow access to an associated apparatus; and
a scanner connected with the program.

3. (Amended) The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the associated apparatus is selected from a group including a vehicle, a safe, a cash register, a locking system of a building, and an alarm system of a building.

4. (Cancelled) [The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the associated apparatus is a safe or cash register.]

5. (Cancelled) [The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the associated apparatus is a locking or alarm system of a building.]

7. (Cancelled) [The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the security photograph is an enlargement of any suitable structure.]

8. (Amended) A method of securing access to an apparatus, the method comprising:

taking a photograph of an object using a microscope to produce an enlarged photograph of the object;

scanning the enlarged photograph;

initializing a program to recognize a scan of the enlarged photograph and require a user to scan the enlarged photograph to access the apparatus.

9. (Cancelled) [The method described in claim 8, wherein the step of taking a photograph comprises using a microscope and producing an enlarged photograph of the object.]

10. (Amended) The method described in claim [9] 8, wherein the object comprises a gemstone.

New claims 11-24 have been added.